AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A device for sealing a passageway in a human body, the device comprising:

a first anchor adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the passageway;

a second anchor adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the passageway, wherein the second anchor includes a releasable fixation mechanism that releasably connects the second end of the elongate member to the second anchor; and

an elongate member adapted to extend through the passageway and connect the first and second anchors, the elongate member having a first end fixedly connected to the first anchor and a second end that releasably connects to the second anchor.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the passageway is a patent foramen ovale.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first anchor includes a plurality of arms.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the plurality of arms extend from a central hub of the first anchor.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the elongate member is flexible.

6. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the plurality of arms can assume a collapsed state and a deployed state.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the second anchor includes a plurality of arms.

8. (Original) The device of claim 7, wherein the plurality of arms extend from a central hub of the second anchor.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein the second anchor includes a covering that spans between the plurality of arms.

Claim 10. Canceled

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the releasable fixation mechanism includes a piercing portion to releasably pierce the elongate member.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the releasable fixation mechanism includes a biased portion connected to the piercing portion to bias the piercing portion in a position so that the piercing portion does not pierce the elongate member.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the releasable fixation mechanism includes a gripping portion to releasably grip the elongate member.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the releasable fixation mechanism includes a biased portion connected to the gripping portion to bias the gripping portion in a position so that the gripping portion does not grip the elongate member.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the gripping portion includes a movable grip attached to the biased portion.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15, wherein the gripping portion includes a fixed grip opposing the movable grip.

17. (Original) The device of claim 7, wherein the plurality of arms can assume a collapsed state and a deployed state.

18. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first anchor pivots relative to the elongate member.

19. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the second anchor pivots relative to the elongate member.

20. (Previously Presented) A device for sealing a passageway in a human body, the device comprising:

a first anchor adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the passageway;

a second anchor adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the passageway; and

a flexible elongate member adapted to extend through the passageway and connect the first and second anchors, the elongate member capable of moving through the second anchor to vary a length of the elongate member between the first and second anchors, wherein the flexible elongate member is configured to permanently connect the first and second anchors implanted in the body.

Claims 21-23. Canceled

24. (Previously Presented) An assembly for sealing a passageway in a heart, the assembly comprising:

a positioning catheter capable of extending to the passageway; and

a closure device capable of sealing the passageway, the closure device including a first anchor adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the passageway, a second anchor adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the passageway, wherein the second anchor includes a releasable fixation mechanism that releasably connects the second end of the elongate member to the second anchor, and a flexible elongate member adapted to extend through the passageway and connect the first and second anchors,

wherein the closure device is positionable within the positioning catheter in a first collapsed state and extendable from the positioning catheter in a second deployed state.

25. (Original) The assembly of claim 22, further comprising a guide catheter capable of extending to the passageway, and wherein the positioning catheter is capable of extending through the guide catheter.

Claim 26. Canceled

27. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the positioning catheter includes a distal portion that selectively engages the releasable fixation mechanism.

28. (Original) The assembly of claim 27, wherein the distal portion includes an inflatable portion that selectively engages the releasable fixation mechanism.

29. (Original) The assembly of claim 28, wherein the inflatable portion includes a balloon.

30. (Original) The assembly of claim 28, wherein the positioning catheter includes a lumen in communication with the inflatable portion.

31. (Original) The assembly of claim 27, wherein the distal portion has a first state that engages the releasable fixation mechanism so that the second end of the elongate member is disconnected from the second anchor and a second state that releases from the releasable fixation mechanism so that the second end of the elongate member connects to the second anchor.

32. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the releasable fixation mechanism includes a piercing portion to releasably pierce the elongate member.

33. (Original) The assembly of claim 32, wherein the releasable fixation mechanism includes a biased portion connected to the piercing portion to bias the piercing portion in a position so that the piercing portion does not pierce the elongate member.

34. (Original) The assembly of claim 33, wherein the positioning catheter includes a distal portion that selectively engages the biased portion.

35. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the releasable fixation mechanism includes a gripping portion to releasably grip the elongate member.

36. (Original) The assembly of claim 35, wherein the releasable fixation mechanism includes a biased portion connected to the gripping portion to bias the

gripping portion in a position so that the gripping portion does not grip the elongate member.

37. (Original) The assembly of claim 36, wherein the positioning catheter includes a distal portion that selectively engages the biased portion.

38. (Original) The assembly of claim 35, wherein the gripping portion includes a movable grip attached to the biased portion.

39. (Original) The assembly of claim 38, wherein the gripping portion includes a fixed grip opposing the movable grip.

40. (Original) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the passageway is a patent foramen ovale.

41. (Original) An assembly for sealing a patent foramen ovale in a heart, the assembly comprising:

a guide catheter capable of extending to the patent foramen ovale;

a positioning catheter capable of extending through the guide catheter to a position near the patent foramen ovale; and

a closure device capable of sealing the patent foramen ovale, the closure device including a first anchor having a first plurality of arms adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the patent foramen ovale, a second anchor having a second plurality of arms adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the patent foramen ovale, a flexible elongate member adapted to extend through the patent foramen ovale and connect the first and second anchors, and a releasable fixation mechanism that selectively engages a distal portion of the positioning catheter to releasably connect the second end of the elongate member to the second anchor,

wherein the closure device is positionable within the positioning catheter in a first state wherein each of the first and second plurality of arms are collapsed and extendable from the positioning catheter in a second deployed state wherein each of the first and second plurality of arms are extended.

42. (Previously Presented) A method of sealing a passageway in a heart, comprising:

placing a first anchor proximate a first end of the passageway;

placing a second anchor proximate a second end of the passageway; and

moving the second anchor relative to the first anchor along a flexible elongate member disposed between the first and second anchors within the passageway, wherein moving the second anchor includes holding a releasable fixation mechanism in an unfixed configuration.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein placing the first anchor includes expanding the first anchor from a collapsed state to a deployed state.

44. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the first anchor includes a plurality of arms, and wherein placing the first anchor includes positioning the plurality of arms proximate the first end of the passage.

45. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein placing the first anchor includes expanding the first anchor from a collapsed state to a deployed state.

46. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the second anchor includes a plurality of arms and a sealing cover, and wherein placing the second anchor includes positioning the plurality of arms and sealing cover proximate the second end of the passage.

47. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the passage is a patent foramen ovale (PFO).

48. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein placing the first anchor includes contacting the septum primum of the heart with the first anchor.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein placing the second anchor includes contacting the septum secundum of the heart with the second anchor.

Claim 50. Canceled

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein moving the second anchor further includes moving the second anchor towards the first anchor.

52. (Previously Presented) A method of sealing a passageway in a heart, comprising:

placing a first anchor proximate a first end of the passageway;

placing a second anchor proximate a second end of the passageway; and

moving the second anchor relative to the first anchor along a flexible elongate member disposed between the first and second anchors within the passageway; and

fixing the second anchor to the flexible elongate member.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising severing the flexible elongate member adjacent the second anchor.

54. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein a first end of the flexible elongate member is connected to the first anchor, and wherein placing the first anchor includes pulling proximally on the flexible elongate member to bring the first anchor into tight contact over the first end of the passage.

55. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the flexible elongate member passes through the second anchor, and wherein placing the second anchor includes pushing the second anchor in a distal direction to move the second anchor with respect to the flexible elongate member until the second anchor sealingly covers the second end of the passage.

Claims 56-69. Canceled

70. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a closure device to a patent foramen ovale in a heart, comprising:

advancing a catheter into the right atrium of the heart;

advancing the catheter through the patent foramen ovale into the left atrium of the heart;

deploying a first anchor of the closure device in the left atrium;

withdrawing the catheter into the right atrium of the heart;

deploying a second anchor of the closure device in the right atrium, wherein deploying the second anchor includes deploying a flexible elongate member passing through the second anchor and having a first end connected to the first anchor; and

positioning the second anchor, wherein positioning the second anchor includes moving the second anchor along the flexible elongate member toward the septum secundum by advancing a positioning catheter connected to the second anchor, and wherein advancing the positioning catheter includes inflating a balloon in contact with a releasable fixation mechanism of the closure device.

71. (Original) The method of claim 70, further comprising positioning the first anchor within the left atrium prior to deploying the second anchor.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein positioning the first anchor includes pivoting the first anchor with respect to the flexible elongate member.

73. (Original) The method of claim 72, wherein positioning the first anchor further includes pulling the flexible elongate member in a proximal direction to seat the first anchor against the septum primum.

74. (Original) The method of claim 72, wherein positioning the first anchor further includes pulling the flexible elongate member in a proximal direction to seat the first anchor against the septum primum and the septum secundum.

75. (Original) The method of claim 72, wherein positioning the first anchor further includes pulling the flexible elongate member in a proximal direction to seat the first anchor against the septum primum and to bring the septum primum into sealing contact with the septum secundum.

76. (Original) The method of claim 72, further including testing the effectiveness of the positioning of the first anchor prior to deploying the second anchor.

77. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein withdrawing the catheter into the right atrium of the heart includes deploying a flexible elongate member having a first end connected to the first anchor into the patent foramen ovale.

78. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein deploying the second anchor in the right atrium includes deploying the second anchor a substantial distance

away from the septum secundum, such that the second anchor does not contact the septum secundum as it is deployed.

79. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein deploying the second anchor includes expanding the second anchor from a delivery configuration to a deployed configuration.

Claim 80. Canceled

81. (Original) The method of claim 70, further comprising positioning the second anchor.

Claims 82-85 Canceled

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising sealingly contacting the septum secundum with the second anchor.

87. (Original) The method of claim 86, further comprising fixing the second anchor to the flexible elongate member subsequent to sealingly contacting the septum secundum.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein fixing the second anchor includes deflating the balloon in contact with the releasable fixation mechanism of the closure device.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein fixing the second anchor further includes piercing the flexible elongate member with at least one pin of the releasable fixation mechanism.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, further comprising severing the flexible elongate member adjacent the second anchor after fixing the second anchor to the flexible elongate member.

Claim 91. Canceled

92. (Original) A closure device for sealing a passageway in a heart, the device comprising:

a left atrial anchor configured to close a first end of the passageway;

a right atrial anchor configured to close a second end of the passageway; and

a flexible elongate member connecting the left and right atrial anchors, wherein the elongate member has a first end fixedly connected to the left atrial anchor and wherein the right atrial anchor is movable with respect to the elongate member and is configured to releasably attach to the elongate member at any one of a plurality of points along a length of the elongate member.

93. (Previously Presented) An assembly for sealing a passageway in a heart, the assembly comprising:

a guide catheter configured to extend from a point of entry into a body to the passageway; and

a closure device capable of sealing the passageway, the closure device including a first anchor adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the passageway, a second anchor adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the passageway, and a flexible elongate member connecting the first and second anchors, wherein the flexible elongate member is configured to permanently connect the first and second anchors implanted in the body;

wherein a first end of the elongate member is connected to the first anchor and wherein the elongate member extends through the second anchor and through the catheter to the point of entry into the body.

94. (Original) A device for sealing a passageway in a human body, the device comprising:

a first anchor adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the passageway;

a second anchor adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the passageway; and

a flexible elongate member adapted to extend through the passageway and connect the first and second anchors, the elongate member capable of moving through the second anchor to vary a tension of the elongate member.

95. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the elongate member is a flexible braided structure.

96. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the elongate member is a flexible multifilar structure.

97. (Original) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the flexible elongate member is a braided structure.

98. (Original) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the flexible elongate member is a multifilar structure.

99. (Previously Presented) A device for closing a passageway in a human body, comprising:

a first anchor adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the passageway;

a second anchor adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the passageway; and

a flexible elongate member adapted to extend through the passageway and connect the first and second anchors, the elongate member having a first end releasably connected to the first anchor and a second end releasably connected to the second anchor, wherein the flexible elongate member is configured to permanently connect the first and second anchors implanted in the body.

100. (Original) A device for closing a passageway in a heart comprising:

a left atrial anchor adapted to be placed in a left atrium of the heart and including a plurality of uncovered arms;

a right atrial anchor adapted to be placed in a right atrium of the heart and including a plurality of arms and a cover attached to the plurality of arms; and

a flexible elongate member adapted to extend through the passageway and connect the left and right atrial anchors, the elongate member having a first end fixedly connected to the left atrial anchor and a second end releasably connected to the right atrial anchor.

101. (Original) A device for sealing a passageway in a heart, the device comprising:

a first anchor adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the passageway, the first anchor comprising a plurality of uncovered arms;

a second anchor adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the passageway, the second anchor comprising a plurality of uncovered arms; and

a flexible elongate member adapted to extend through the passageway and connect the first and second anchors, the elongate member having a first end fixedly connected to the first anchor and a second end that releasably connects to the second anchor.

102. (Previously Presented) A device for sealing a passageway in a human body, the device comprising:

a first anchor adapted to be placed proximate a first end of the passageway;

a second anchor adapted to be placed proximate a second end of the passageway; and

a flexible elongate member adapted to extend through the passageway and connect the first and second anchors, the elongate member capable of moving through the second anchor to vary a length of the elongate member between the first and second anchors, wherein the flexible elongate member does not include a guide wire.

103. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the passageway is a patent foramen ovale.

104. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the first anchor includes a plurality of arms.

105. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 104, wherein the plurality of arms extend from a central hub of the first anchor.

106. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 104, wherein the plurality of arms can assume a collapsed state and a deployed state.

107. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the second anchor includes a plurality of arms.

108. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 107, wherein the plurality of arms extend from a central hub of the second anchor.

109. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108, wherein the second anchor includes a covering that spans between the plurality of arms.

110. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 107, wherein the plurality of arms can assume a collapsed state and a deployed state.

111. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the first anchor pivots relative to the elongate member.

112. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the second anchor pivots relative to the elongate member.

113. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 93, wherein the passageway is a patent foramen ovale.

114. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 93, wherein the first anchor includes a plurality of arms.

115. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 114, wherein the plurality of arms extend from a central hub of the first anchor.

116. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 114, wherein the plurality of arms can assume a collapsed state and a deployed state.

117. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 93, wherein the second anchor includes a plurality of arms.

118. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 117, wherein the plurality of arms extend from a central hub of the second anchor.

119. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 118, wherein the second anchor includes a covering that spans between the plurality of arms.

120. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 117, wherein the plurality of arms can assume a collapsed state and a deployed state.

121. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 93, wherein the first anchor pivots relative to the elongate member.

122. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 93, wherein the second anchor pivots relative to the elongate member.

123. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 94, wherein the passageway is a patent foramen ovale.

124. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 94, wherein the first anchor includes a plurality of arms.

125. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 124, wherein the plurality of arms extend from a central hub of the first anchor.

126. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 124, wherein the plurality of arms can assume a collapsed state and a deployed state.

127. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 94, wherein the second anchor includes a plurality of arms.

128. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 127, wherein the plurality of arms extend from a central hub of the second anchor.

129. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 128, wherein the second anchor includes a covering that spans between the plurality of arms.

130. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 94, wherein the second anchor includes a releasable fixation mechanism that releasably connects the second end of the elongate member to the second anchor.

131. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 94, further comprising a fixation mechanism for fixing the position of the second anchor relative to the flexible elongate member.

132. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 131, wherein the fixation mechanism is movable relative to the flexible elongate member.

133. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 127, wherein the plurality of arms can assume a collapsed state and a deployed state.

134. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 94, wherein the first anchor pivots relative to the flexible elongate member.

135. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 94, wherein the second anchor pivots relative to the flexible elongate member.

136. (New) A septal defect closure device, comprising:

a proximal anchor member having a generally cylindrical shape for deployment proximate a first end of a septal defect;

a distal anchor member having a generally cylindrical shape for deployment proximate a second end of said septal defect; and

a suture connecting said proximal and distal anchor members.

137. (New) The device of claim 136, wherein said suture is slidingly mounted on said proximal anchor member.

138. (New) The device of claim 136, wherein said suture comprises a resilient elastomeric material.

139. (New) The device of claim 136, wherein a side of each anchor member for contacting a tissue surface is generally flattened to increase surface contact.

140. (New) The device of claim 136, wherein said device is collapsible for passage through a catheter or sheath.

141. (New) The device of claim 140, wherein said device can be collapsed with the proximal and distal anchor members being in a generally aligned, end to end arrangement for passage through a catheter or sheath.

142. (New) The device of claim 136, wherein said proximal and distal anchor members are collapsible for deployment or removal.

143. (New) The device of claim 142, wherein the proximal and distal anchor members are generally foldable.

144. (New) A septal defect closure device, comprising:

an elongated proximal anchor member for deployment proximate a first end of a septal defect;

an elongated distal anchor member for deployment proximate a second end of said septal defect; and

a flexible layer connecting said proximal and distal anchor members.

145. (New) The device of claim 144, wherein said flexible layer comprises thrombogenic or inflammatory materials.

146. (New) The device of claim 144, wherein said flexible layer is porous or textured.

147. (New) The device of claim 144, wherein said flexible layer comprises a resilient elastomeric material.

148. (New) The device of claim 144, wherein said flexible layer comprises a plurality of fibers connecting the anchor members.

149. (New) The device of claim 144, wherein said proximal and distal anchor members each have a generally cylindrical shape with rounded ends.

150. (New) The device of claim 144, wherein a side of each anchor member for contacting a tissue surface is generally flattened to increase surface contact.

151. (New) The device of claim 144, wherein said device is collapsible for passage through a catheter or sheath.

152. (New) The device of claim 151, wherein said device can be collapsed with the proximal and distal anchor members being in a generally aligned, end to end arrangement for passage through a catheter or sheath.

153. (New) The device of claim 144, wherein said proximal and distal anchor members are collapsible for deployment or removal.

154. (New) The device of claim 153, wherein the proximal and distal anchor members are generally foldable.

155. (New) A method of retrieving a deployed septal closure device having a proximal anchor member positioned proximate a first end of a septal defect, a distal

anchor member positioned proximate a second end of said septal defect, and a flexible connection member connecting said proximal and distal anchor members, said method comprising:

moving a sheath toward the proximal anchor member;

applying tension to the proximal anchor member to first withdraw the proximal anchor member into the sheath and then to withdraw the distal anchor member into the sheath;

wherein the proximal and distal anchor members are generally in an end to end, aligned arrangement in said sheath.

156. (New) The method of claim 155 further comprising moving the sheath toward the distal anchor member prior to withdrawing the distal anchor member into the sheath.

157. (New) A septal defect closure device, comprising:

a proximal anchor member having a frame structure for deployment proximate a first end of a septal defect;

a distal anchor member having a frame structure for deployment proximate a second end of said septal defect; and

a flexible joint connecting said proximal and distal anchor members.

158. (New) The device of claim 157 wherein said flexible joint comprises a layer of thrombogenic or inflammatory material.

159. (New) The device of claim 157, wherein said flexible joint comprises a plurality of fibers connecting said anchor members.

160. (New) The device of claim 157 wherein said flexible joint is porous or textured.

161. (New) The device of claim 157, wherein said flexible joint includes a resilient elastomeric material.

162. (New) The device of claim 157, wherein said anchor members each have a frame structure having a generally "+" shaped structure.

163. (New) The device of claim 157, wherein said anchor members each have a collapsible frame structure to facilitate deployment of said device in a delivery catheter.

164. (New) The device of claim 157, wherein each frame structure includes metal or polymer components.

165. (New) A septal closure device, comprising:

a proximal anchor member for deployment proximate a first end of a septal defect;

a distal anchor member for deployment proximate a second end of said septal defect; and

a connecting member connecting said proximal and distal anchor members,

wherein the distal and proximal anchors each comprise a layer that is collapsed to form a cylinder during device deployment, and generally flat after deployment.

166. (New) An apparatus for closing a septal defect, comprising:

a delivery system including a sheath having a tip positionable at the defect; and

a septal occluder collapsible for delivery through the sheath for deployment at the septal defect, the septal occluder comprising:

a proximal anchor member having a generally cylindrical shape for deployment proximate a first end of a septal defect;

a distal anchor member having a generally cylindrical shape for deployment proximate a second end of said septal defect; and

a suture connecting said proximal and distal anchor members.

167. (New) An apparatus for closing a septal defect, comprising:

a delivery system including a sheath having a tip positionable at the defect; and

a septal occluder collapsible for delivery through the sheath for deployment at the septal defect, the septal occluder comprising:

an elongated proximal anchor member for deployment proximate a first end of a septal defect;

an elongated distal anchor member for deployment proximate a second end of said septal defect; and

a flexible layer connecting said proximal and distal anchor members.